

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended).

A chummer comprising:

a housing having an inlet port, an outlet port, and an opening for receiving bait;

a motor attached to the housing, the motor having a shaft axially extending through the housing;

a first cutting blade attached to the ~~housing~~ shaft;

an impeller blade attached to the shaft, wherein rotation of the shaft causes rotation of the impeller blade which causes water to be drawn into the housing through the inlet port and discharged through the outlet port whenever the outlet port is positioned below the water line; and

wherein the housing is placed into the water so that the inlet port and the outlet port are beneath the water line, the bait is placed into the opening, and the motor is activated and rotates the shaft such that bait falls through the housing and is cut up by the first cutting blade and the impeller blade draws water through the inlet port into the housing wherein the water is mixed with the cut up bait and the mixed water and cut up bait are expelled through the outlet port.

Claim 2 (original).

The chummer as in claim 1 wherein the motor is an electric motor.

Claim 3 (original).

The chummer as in claim 1 wherein the motor is reversible such that the rotation of the shaft is reversible.

Claim 4 (original).

The chummer as in claim 1 further comprising a second blade attached to the shaft between the first cutting blade and the impeller blade.

Claim 5 (original).

The chummer as in claim 4 wherein the distance between the first cutting blade and the second cutting blade is changeable.

Claim 6 (original).

The chummer as in claim 4 further comprising a spacer disposed between the first cutting blade and the second cutting blade.

Claim 7 (original).

The chummer as in claim 1 further comprising a mounting bracket attached to the housing.

Claim 8 (original).

The chummer as in claim 7 wherein the mounting bracket is pivotally attached to the housing.

Claim 9 (currently amended).

A chummer comprising:

a housing having a top cap, a bottom cap, an inlet port, an outlet port, and an opening for receiving bait;

a motor attached to the top cap of the housing, the motor having a shaft axially extending through the housing;

a first cutting blade attached to the **housing shaft**;

an impeller blade attached to the shaft, wherein rotation of the shaft causes rotation of the impeller blade which causes water to be drawn into the housing through the inlet port and discharged through the outlet port whenever the outlet port is positioned below the water line; and

wherein the housing is placed into the water so that the inlet port and the outlet port are beneath the water line, the bait is placed into the opening, and the motor is activated and rotates the shaft such that bait falls through the housing and is cut up by the first cutting blade and the impeller blade draws water through the inlet port into the housing wherein the water is mixed with the cut up bait and the mixed water and cut up bait are expelled through the outlet port.

Claim 10 (original).

The chummer as in claim 9 wherein the motor is an electric motor.

Claim 11 (original).

The chummer as in claim 9 wherein the motor is reversible such that the rotation of the shaft is reversible.

Claim 12 (original).

The chummer as in claim 9 further comprising a second blade attached to the shaft between the first cutting blade and the impeller blade.

Claim 13 (original).

The chummer as in claim 12 wherein the distance between the first cutting blade and the second cutting blade is changeable.

Claim 14 (original).

The chummer as in claim 12 further comprising a spacer disposed between the first cutting blade and the second cutting blade.

Claim 15 (original).

The chummer as in claim 9 further comprising a mounting bracket attached to the housing.

Claim 16 (original).

The chummer as in claim 15 wherein the mounting bracket is pivotally attached to the housing.

Claim 17 (original).

The chummer as in claim 9 wherein an end of the shaft is received within a bearing assembly attached to the bottom cap.

Claim 18 (original).

The chummer as in claim 9 wherein the bottom cap is removably attached to the housing.

Claim 19 (original).

A chummer comprising a housing that receives bait, the housing being partially submerged in water and wherein the bait passes through the housing wherein the bait is chopped up and wherein water is drawn into the housing, the water is mixed with the chopped up bait, and the mixed water and the chopped up bait are expelled from the housing.

Claim 20 (original).

The chummer in claim 19 wherein the bait is chopped by a cutting blade that is operatively connected to a motor via a shaft.

Claim 21 (original).

The chummer as in claim 20 wherein the water is drawn into the housing and subsequently expelled from the housing by an impeller blade attached to the shaft.

Claim 22 (original).

The chummer as in claim 20 wherein the motor is reversible such that the rotation of the shaft is reversible.

Claim 23 (original).

The chummer as in claim 19 wherein the water is drawn into the housing and subsequently expelled from the housing by an impeller blade operatively connected to a motor via a shaft.

Claim 24 (original).

The chummer as in claim 23 wherein the motor is reversible such that the rotation of the shaft is reversible.

Claim 25 (original).

The chummer as in claim 19 further comprising a mounting bracket attached to the housing.

Claim 26 (original).

The chummer as in claim 25 wherein the mounting bracket is pivotally attached to the housing.